
THE COURT SYSTEM

For many, this may be their first involvement with law enforcement or the judicial system. It is very common for people to expect what they have seen on television or movies to apply to their current circumstances. Unfortunately, these expectations are a distorted and unrealistic snapshot of how things truly operate. Arizona has laws and regulations in place to protect victims. For cases involving prosecution, a court advocate can provide information, education, and support that will help reduce fears and uncertainties.

It is important to be aware of resolution by plea agreement and understand that it is often practiced in the judicial process. By negotiating an agreement, this approach to resolution can prevent the need for testifying in court. As with any situation, education and information about how the judicial system operates can assist the victim and their family in the reduction of trauma.

AZPOINT ORDER OF PROTECTION & INJUNCTION AGAINST HARASSMENT

You can seek an Order of Protection or Injunction Against Harassment at any Municipal, Justice, or Supreme Court by completing the documentation through the Arizona Protective Order Initiation & Notification Tool (**AZPOINT**) at:

→ <https://azpoint.azcourts.gov/> ←

One of our advocates can assist with navigation of this website and address any questions while filling out the necessary paperwork.

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RESOURCE INFORMATION

**Arizona Coalition to End Sexual
& Domestic Violence**
(800) 782-6400
www.acesdv.org

Community Referral
211

National Domestic Violence Hotline
(800) 799-7233
www.thehotline.org

Rape, Abuse, Incest National Network (RAINN)
(800) 656-4673
<https://www.rainn.org/get-help>

Prescott Area Shelter Services (PASS)
Non-active domestic violence situations only
(928) 778-5933

Prescott Justice Court
Yavapai County Superior Court
(928) 771-3300 - Justice Court
(928) 771-3312 - Superior Court

Stepping Stones
Staffed 24/7 for a safe place or someone to talk to.
(928) 445-4673

Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
24/7 crisis hotline
988

Yavapai County Attorney
**Office of Victim Services &
Victim Compensation Division**
(928) 771-3485
www.yavapai.us/coatty/Divisions-Programs/Victim-Services

Yavapai Family Advocacy Center (YFAC)
(928) 775-0669
www.yfac.org

Prescott Police Department
Victim Services Unit
222 S. Marina Street
Prescott, AZ 86303
(928) 777-1936
victimservices@prescott-az.gov

surviving sexual assault



CITY OF PRESCOTT POLICE DEPARTMENT VICTIM SERVICES UNIT



WHAT IS SEXUAL ASSAULT?

Crimes that involve forced or unwanted sexual conduct are considered to be sexual assaults and can include:

- Acquaintance Rape/Non-Stranger Rape
- Date Rape or Stranger Rape
- Drug/Alcohol Facilitated Sexual Assault
- Indecent Exposure or “Flashing”
- Forced Sodomy (Oral or Anal)
- Gang Rape/Multiple Rape
- Marital Rape or Marital Sexual Assault
- Object Penetration
- Same Sex Sexual Assault
- Sexual Battery
- Unwanted Touching
- Voyeurism or “Peeping Tom”

DEALING WITH YOUR FEELINGS & TRAUMA

Common short and long-term reactions can include:

- Inability to concentrate or function at a usual level
- Overeating or appetite loss
- Nightmares/Sleeplessness
- Loss of self confidence
- Stress related illness
- Feelings of grief and despair
- Feelings of helplessness
- Fear of being alone, or with people, or in a specific setting, especially at night
- Anxiety and mood swings
- Feelings of guilt and shame
- Denial of the assault
- Flashbacks/Memory gaps
- Embarrassment
- Distrust towards others

STAGES OF COPING

Victims tend to go through stages when coping with a sexual assault. Generally, denial is first, then realization, anger, and eventually resolution of the event. NOTE: If you believe you are not moving through the below listed stages as effectively as you would like to, it is strongly recommended that you seek professional help to heal.

Denial: Initially, there may be denial and you may shut out others and avoid the subject. This is an attempt to believe the assault did not happen. Disbelief can be a protection from the overwhelming feelings associated with the trauma from the assault.

Realization: Denial is often followed by a realization stage where feelings begin to emerge. You may begin to lack trust in others and fear of future assaults may cause you to isolate yourself. There is also a tendency to blame yourself for the assault. It is important to remember you did the best you could in the situation. You are the victim, the blame rests on your attacker. Do not blame yourself in your attempt to make some sense out of what happened.

Anger: Victims usually move into a stage of anger. This is healthy when your feelings are directed toward your assailant. Sometimes your anger may be misdirected toward those around you. Let them know that you are not angry with them, but rather with what happened to you. The anger indicates you are beginning to integrate the event into your life and move on.

Resolution: You can begin to look ahead while accepting that it happened and that it was terrible, but you realize it is over.

REMEMBER:

“The victim can move back and forth between these stages, and often.”

COUNSELING & VICTIM ASSISTANCE

The Prescott Police Department Victim Services Unit staff can help you through the maze of events and feelings connected with your sexual assault. An advocate can be with you when the police question you to help answer your questions, to give you information about what to expect, and to refer you to needed services.

When you need or want to talk, the advocate will listen to you, offer alternative solutions, and help you sort out your feelings.

MEDICAL ATTENTION

Medical attention is important for several reasons such as collection of evidence, unnoticed injuries such as internal injuries, risk of contracting a sexually transmitted disease, becoming pregnant and risk of infection.

Forensic Exams, also known as a Sexual Assault Nurse Exam (S.A.N.E.), are performed by specially trained forensic nurses and should be performed within 120 hours (5 days) of the assault; however, as soon possible increases viability in collection of evidence. Examinations are done in the medical suite at a local family advocacy center. There is no out-of-pocket expenses for the forensic and medical examinations.

As part of the exam, a detailed medical history is taken and used to aid in the collection of evidence and examination of injuries. These examinations can take anywhere from 2-6 hours depending on reporting time and injury.

Evidence is collected from various parts of the body with the use of cotton swabs, injuries are documented and measured, blood is usually drawn for DNA and collection of clothing may be necessary. Usually, an opportunity to shower and a change of clothing is provided.